

IX.—REWARDS.

1. Rule 56 of the rules under the Opium Act leaves it to the discretion of the Magistrate whether he will grant a reward or not in cases of opium-smuggling, but it seems expedient that rewards should be freely granted to stimulate the zeal of the preventive men. (G. R. No. 3473, dated 2nd July 1879.)

2. In the interests of the public revenue it is desirable that rewards in cases of opium-smuggling should always be granted when fairly earned. (G. R. No. 273, dated 16th January 1882.)

3. The attention of the Magistrates in this Presidency is requested to the fact that a liberal treatment of informers in opium-smuggling cases is likely to be of much use in checking defeat of the law. (G. R. No. 2281, dated 14th April 1888, and G. R., J. D., No. 2255, dated 28th idem.)

4. Whenever informers in opium-smuggling cases refuse to pass a receipt for the reward disbursed to them, the payment should be admitted on the production of a receipt signed by the disbursing officer and countersigned by the controlling officer and subject to the condition that the gazetted officer to whom the disbursing officer is immediately subordinate should certify on the receipt that he has satisfied himself that payment has been made to the rightful claimant. (G. R. No. 3698, dated 29th May 1890.)

5. The rules under the Opium Act do not authorize the handing of rewards for the detection of opium-smuggling to the Traffic Manager of a Railway for distribution, as he is not a head of a Department in the sense of the rule. The rewards to be given to employes of the G. I. P. Railway may, as desired by the authorities of the Railway, be limited to one month's pay in ordinary cases. The Superintendent of Police is responsible that petty annoyance is not caused to third class passengers by constables under the pretence of a search for opium. Government have no reason to suppose that this abuse of authority exists, but it must be guarded against. (G. R. No. 7394, dated 29th October 1887.)

X.—INTERPRETATIONS, LEGAL OPINIONS, &c.

1. No restriction is placed by the Opium Rules on the free transport and sale of poppy seeds. (G. R. No. 756, dated 14th February 1880.)

2. Section 3 of the Opium Act, 1878, provides that, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context, 'opium' includes also poppy-heads, preparations or admixtures of opium, and intoxicating drugs prepared from the poppy.

In the rules* made under Section 5 of the Act, 'opium' has the meaning defined in the Act.